United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1231
22 September 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly continues general debate hearing addresses by Presidents of Djibouti, Republic of Korea, Croatia, Cyprus; statements by United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; Foreign Ministers of Russian Federation, Netherlands, Pakistan; and Deputy Prime Minister of Japan; General Assembly to vote on question of membership of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

+ Plan to ensure protection of humanitarian aid convoys in Bosnia-Herzegovina discussed by joint UNPROFOR/UNHCR planning team; Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance hold talks with Greek Prime Minister on that country's special responsibility as neighbouring State to former Yugoslavia.

+ Douglas Hurd, British Foreign Secretary and President of European Community Council of Ministers, says there is clear need for Security Council Summit to discuss proposals concerning increased demand for peace-keeping operations.

+ President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, tells a press conference that he will press co-hosts of London Conference on former Yugoslavia to ensure that agreements reached at the Conference are implemented.

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Opening the debate in the General Assembly this morning, the President of Djibouti, El Hadj Hassan Gouled Aptidon, called attention to the horror of Somalia asking how a whole nation could "condemn itself to self-destruction". The world had come to realize belatedly the full extent of the tragedy in Somalia, the Djiboutian President said, and predicted that there would be hundreds of thousands more Somali victims.

Blaming the crisis on "oppressive, tyrannical warlords", he said the tragedy in Somalia was not inevitable. The Somali people had been plunged into brutal barbarism "out of sheer greed" and a "blind obsession with power", he said, adding that the question today was not how to save lives through the

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delivery of food to stave off starvation, not even how to stop the senseless fighting. Rather, he said, "in a scenario like Somalia", it is what the United Nations, together with the international community can devise collectively to reorganize the new nation of Somalia.

Concluding, he said Djibouti was confidently awaiting the day when all peoples of the Horn of Africa would have overcome the spectre of famine and poverty within a secure and peaceful environment.

In his address this morning, the President of the Republic of Korea, Roh Tae Woo, said the normalization of diplomatic relations between his country and China, along with his official visit to Beijing next week was expected to contribute toward reduced tensions in the Korean Peninsula and to peace-making efforts in Northeast Asia.

Turning to the dialogue between the two Koreas, Mr. Tae Woo said that thus far, eight rounds of meetings had been held alternately in Seoul and Pyongyang, where a number of pending issues had been discussed. Among those was North Korea's suspected nuclear development programme, which, he said, was casting "dark clouds" over the future of the Korean Peninsula. As a United Nations member, he said, North Korea was responsible for removing all suspicions about its nuclear development programme in order to be fully accepted by the community of nations.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Douglas Hurd, in his statement to the Assembly, recalled the common efforts being deployed by the United Nations and the European Community -- the United Nations leading on peace-keeping and the European Community on peace-making -- to bring peace, justice and relief to the suffering of the victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was a difficult undertaking, he said, requiring deep understanding of the problems, the complete respect and cooperation of the parties concerned and the "unstinging support" of, and if necessary pressure from, the international community.

Mr. Hurd also stressed the positive role presently played by the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia -- now working in Geneva under the co-chairmanship of Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen -- which, he said, was powered by the determination of the international community to bring an end to the violence in the former Yugoslavia.

The best way of avoiding to place too heavy a burden of intervention on the United Nations in different regional conflicts around the world, the British Minister went on, was to prevent those conflicts from breaking out. That could only be accomplished through diplomacy. To give diplomacy a chance, he noted, the key international institutions, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), needed to be strong. Preventive diplomacy was quicker, more helpful to peoples about to be embroiled in conflict than even the most successful peace-keeping or peace-making operation which follows the outbreak of violence. It was also less costly, in terms of lives and cash, Mr. Hurd said. The European Community would follow up on the

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idea of preventive deployment of troops in the event of an internal crisis, "where the government requests help, with humanitarian assistance or conciliation". He announced that the European Community had already decided in principle to send civilian monitoring missions to States that have requested them.

Addressing the financial aspect of the peace-keeping operations, Mr. Hurt noted that the twelve member States of the European Community had given some 40 per cent of total contributions actually collected so far for the various new operations launched or expanded since the end of the last General Assembly. In the case of Bosnia, he said, the EC member States would bear all their own costs.

Pledging that his country's President, Government, the majority of the Parliament and the whole country would not abandon the path of reforms "no matter how difficult it may prove", the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Andrei V. Kozyrev, told the Assembly that Russia had learned from its own experience that there would be no alternative to democratic development.

Mr. Kozyrev expressed his country's support to the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" report and the proposals made in the Assembly yesterday by United States President George Bush, and emphasized the need to extinguish armed conflicts. Russia would bolster its efforts aimed at eliminating the conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union, "bearing in mind special interests and responsibility of Russia in establishing civilized principles of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in that part of the world". Together with the CSCE, Russia would seek to end the war in favour of peace in Nagorno-Karabakh, to secure integrity of of Tadjikistan and natinoal reconciliation in that country, in cooperation with the United Nations.

The Russian Foreign Minister added that the fate of former Soviet service men -- prisoners of war in Afghanistan -- remained one of the most acute humanitarian problems. He called on the General Assembly to pronounce its support for an urgent resolution of the problem.

With the end of the Cold War, regional conflicts had proliferated "with a vehemence which none had foreseen", but, at the same time, the possibility to do something about them had increased, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Hans van den Broek, told the General Assembly. The United Nations was the right organization to deal with these emergencies and must possess all the means necessary for a flexible response ranging from preventive diplomacy to repressive action, he said.

Turning to the question of human rights, Mr. Van den Broek said that despite some encouraging developments all over the world, human rights were still being violated in numerous countries. He cited massive violations in the former Yugoslavia, where "nationalism and irredentism had gone wild and threatened neighbouring States as well". He indicated that his country favoured the establishment of machinery for the systematic gathering of data

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concerning criminal acts with regard to the Geneva Conventions and the Human Rights Conventions, calling on the Assembly to consider the establishment of an International Criminal Court.

In his address to the General Assembly this afternoon, the President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, voiced his country's "criticism" of the "inadequately efficient action of international factors in the solution of the crisis" in the former Yugoslavia, "more precisely in the prevention of the brutal aggression waged by Serbia and Montenegro against Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina".

The Croatian President warned that unless stopped, the aggression may spread into a conflict of a much broader scale. The implementation of the Vance plan, created with the authority of the Security Council, was also falling behind schedule because of constant Serbian and Montenegrin "sabotage".

President Tudjman urged that the operation of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) be speeded up and fully implemented within its mandate. Otherwise, he said, it would become meaningless and produce the justified indignation and frustration of the Croatian people who continue to suffer the consequences of aggression. He called on the United Nations to "summon all the will and the power" to bring the war in Croatia to a close and stop aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The example of Cyprus was sufficient evidence that an intense effort of peace-making must be pursued in parallel with every peace-keeping operation, the President of Cyprus, George Vassiliou, told the General Assembly. Despite the lack of results "because of the negative attitude of the Turkish side", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had correctly seized the moment and pursued an intense renewed effort toward this end, he said.

The President of Cyprus went on to say that the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" report clearly indicated why progress had not been made during the recent talks held in July and August in New York between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides. He reiterated the determination of his Government to participate in the resumption of the talks on 26 October, and expressed the hope that the Turkish side, "despite its so far negative public statements", would cooperate as well.

Speaking about the risks entailed by the intense arms race between regional powers, President Vassiliou called for the establishment of an institutional framework that would enhance the feeling of security, diminishing the need of self-help in case of aggression to a maximum. He recalled that Cyprus had repeatedly proposed the demilitarization of the island together with the withdrawal of the Turkish forces from Cyprus, as a means for the resources thus saved to be used for development purposes.

In his statement to the General Assembly, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Muhammad Siddique Khan Kanju, recalled that Pakistan and India had concluded agreements not to attack each other's nuclear facilities, as well as on prior notification of military exercises and

prevention of air violations. They had also recently signed a Declaration on the total prohibition of chemical weapons, he said. India remains however non-responsive to the proposals aimed at ensuring nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia and bringing about mutual and balanced reduction of conventional forces, he noted.

Speaking about the question of self-determination for Kashmir, the Pakistani Foreign Minister expressed concern that Security Council resolutions had remained unimplemented. He recalled that Pakistan had proposed a bilateral dialogue with India to reach a final settlement of the Kashmir dispute and he called upon the international community and the Secretary-General to pursuade India to cease its policy of suppression.

With regard to Afghanistan, Pakistan was ready to make its contribution to the gigantic task of rebuilding this war-ravaged nation's economy. Mr. Kanju also urged the international community to help contribute to the recontruction of Afghanistan and the rehabilitation of the returning refugees.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Japan, Michio Watanabe, noted that building a peaceful world would require a five-pronged approach. Among action to be taken, he said, efforts had to be stepped up to forestall the outbreak of conflicts. Expressing support for the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" report, he noted however that the idea of "preventive deployment" of United Nations peace-keeping operations with the consent of only one party to a conflict, involved problems that required further study.

In the field of the peaceful resolution of conflicts, Mr. Watanabe indicated that his country continued to step up its diplomatic efforts to build peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. In the Cambodian conflict, he said, Japan would continue its "intensive and unremitting effort" to urge the Khmer Rouge to work with the other parties and with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to advance the peace process quickly.

Mr. Watanabe further recalled that last June the Japanese Diet had passed the International Peace Cooperation Law, which "put in place domestic arrangements that finally enable Japan to participate in United Nations peace-keeping operations and international humanitarian relief operations".

Turning to economic issues, Mr. Watanabe announced that under its stated goal of expanding its environment-related official development assistance (ODA) to about $7.7 billion over the next five years, Japan would strive to identify, formulate and implement the best projects through policy dialogue with developing cuntries.

Concluding, the Japanese Minister told the Assembly that it was necessary to consider seriously just how the United Nations could be restructured, including considerations of the functions, composition and other aspects of the Security Council.

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Yesterday, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Guido di Tella, told the Assembly that while the general view of contemporary international relations gave rise to a sense of hope worldwide, some regional conflicts which persisted could not be ignored. Argentina continued to support the decisions of the Security Council because of its profound belief in regulating the norms for civilized conduct of nations. In addition, regional development was another principle highly valued by Argentina, which had actively promoted reforms in the charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) to better enable it to respond to the region's needs.

Mr. Tella went on to underline the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina. He said, however, that the dispute over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, Georgias and South Sandwich Islands persisted. He reaffirmed the sovereign right of Argentina over those territories, and, in that context, rejected the recent "unilateral" decision by the United Kingdom Government to prospect for hydrocarbons in the disputed area. That act could introduce difficulties into the good bilateral relationship of cooperation in the South Atlantic.

The Vice Minister of External Relations of Angola, Domingos Manuel Nginga, said that the armed conflict that had ravaged his country since 1975 had ended with the signing of the Bicesse Accords. Now, he said, the Angolan people were preparing with great anticipation the holding of the first general and multiparty elections scheduled for 29 and 30 September.

Mr. Nginga also expressed his Governement's concern at the incidents that are taking place in almost all parts of the country and hoped that, before the elections, definitive accords could be reached regarding the "extinction" of the present Government's armed forces and the military wing of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

He called for the cessation of the wave of violence and intimidation provoked, in his opinion. by the partner of the Government to the Bicesse Accords and for the formation of a national army.

The Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe, Nathan Shamuyarira, told the Assembly yesterday that regional cooperation during the severe drought now afflicting Southern Africa would be greatly increased if the apartheid system in South Africa were brought to an end and a non-racial and democratic system established in its place. Mr. Shamuyarira also called for an increase in the number of observers to South Africa, saying that to adequately deal with violence in the country much more than the current 50 monitors should be dispatched to cover all potential flashpoints.

Commenting on other African trouble spots such as Angola, Mozambique and Somalia, the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister praised the United Nations for its steadfast support of the Angolan peace process, particularly through the deployment of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM 11). With regard to Mozambique, he said his country would do all in its power to promote

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peace there, and he commended the decisive steps taken by the Security Council on Somalia, especially its decision to dispatch 3,500 troops to protect food shipments and distribution there.

The General Assembly was expected to hold a night meeting at which it would take up agenda item 8 on the question of the membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. A draft resolution will be introduced, after which a number of delegations, including the United Kingdom, the United States, Austria and Yugoslavia will address the Assembly.

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A plan to implement the Security Council's resolution providing for protection of humanitarian aid convoys in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been discussed by a joint planning team, consisting of representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The team also included representatives of countries that plan to contribute troops to UNPROFOR.

According to the United Nations office in Zagreb, the discussions were held in the mission area from 17 to 19 September when the draft plan was finally formulated and presented to UNPROFOR Force Commander Satish Nambiar. Consultations with some Governments involved would follow and advance teams would be sent to the proposed areas of deployment to determine the needs of the mission.

Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, Co-chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, held in London last month, were scheduled to go to Greece today to meet with Prime Minister Mitsotakis for a discussion of the special responsibility of Greece as a neighbouring State of the former Yugoslavia.

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Responding to questions from the press following his statement to the General Assembly this morning, Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary and President of the European Community Council of Ministers, again emphasized that "the peace-keeping machinery and resources of the United Nations are stretched". He affirmed that there was a clear need for a Security Council Summit to discuss proposals by the Secretary General concerning the increased demand for such operations and ratify the conclusions reached.

At the start of last year, Mr. Hurd pointed out, there were 11,500 United Nations peace-keeping personnel and now, 10 months later, there were 51,000. Asked about his country's willingness to make its forces available for special multi-national training exercises and provide combat-ready troops for peace enforcement, Mr. Hurd said that, as it had been demonstrated in the Persian Gulf, his country was "perfectly ready to take part". He said, however, that the next step was military talks between representatives of the British Ministry of Defense and the United Nations on this question.

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Citing the situation in Mogadishu, Mr. Hurd told the press that, as the United Nations was increasingly propelled into a role of intervention and partial administration - involving both military and policing elements and a range of public services - "the moral was to invest more ingenuity and will" into preventive diplomacy before countries reach the stage of collapse where military intervention or administration from outside became inevitable.

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The President of Bosnia Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, told correspondents at a press conference at Headquarters this afternoon that he was going to press the co-hosts of the London Conference on the former Yugoslavia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and British Prime Minister John Major, to ensure that agreements reached at that Conference were implemented.

He noted that in the 26 days since the end of the London Conference, nearly 2,000 citizens of his country had died in increased fighting. The possibility of the establishment of a "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina was one of the reasons his Governnment had decided, after some hesitation, to work with the London Conference and accept its decisions.

The Bosnian President also called for the establishment of an international war crimes tribunal, noting that article 51 of the United Nations Charter gave the right of collective defense and of self-defense to a country under attack. He said the international community could "deprive us of one of these rights, but not of both".

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